Danger Girl™

MAYDAY

ROYLE
EESHWAR

Danger Girl™

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written by
Andy Hartnell

pencils by
John Royle

inks by
Eeshwar (Ch. 2–4) & Jose Marzan, Jr. (Ch. 1)

colors by
Romulo Fajardo (Ch. 1–3) & Ronda Pattison (Ch. 4)

letters by
Neil Uyetake

original series edits by
Scott Dunbier

collection edits by
Justin Eisinger & Alonzo Simon

collection design by
Neil Uyetake

cover art by
John Royle & Eeshwar

cover colors by
Romulo Fajardo

MAYDAY

Danger Girl created by J. Scott Campbell & Andy Hartnell.

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CHAPTER 1

pencils by John Royle • inks by Jose Marzan, Jr. • colors by Romulo Fajardo

SHALL WE BEGIN?

Years ago...

YOUR CAPTAIN IS A STUBBORN MAN...

...HE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE'S LOST THIS SHIP. HE IS CONVINCED THAT WE WILL KILL HIS ENTIRE CREW. YET HE REFUSES TO ANSWER ONE SIMPLE QUESTION:

WHO IS BUYING THIS CARGO?

HEH HEH HEH

YOU BETTER HOPE YOU NEVER FIND OUT, LADY.

YOU THINK THIS IS A *JOKE*?!

THE *REVOLVER*? NO.

YOU TAKING ORDERS FROM *HER*? YEAH—I THINK IT'S *HILARIOUS*.

KLIK

NO. CUT HIM LOOSE.

NOW *THIS* IS GONNA BE *FUNNY*...

DEFEND YOURSELF.

FROM WHAT?

KWAFF

LAST CHANCE. WHO'S BUYING THE WEAPONS?

WHAT'S WITH THE DOG TAGS? YOU EX-MILITARY?

I'M EX-EVERYTHING.

NOW TALK.

GO AHEAD AND KILL US. THEY'LL DO IT THEMSELVES ONCE THEY FIND OUT WE'VE BEEN BOARDED, INTERROGATED... AND IT'LL BE FAR WORSE THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN DISH OUT.

AND WHO ARE THEY? THERE'S ENOUGH WEAPONS ON THIS SHIP TO SUPPLY AN ARMY.

ISLAND? THERE'S NOTHING AROUND HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES.

APPARENTLY, THERE IS.

IT'S NOT ON ANY OF THE CHARTS...

THIS IS JUST A MINOR RESUPPLY, A DROP IN THE BUCKET TO THEM. THE BIG GUNS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE, ON THEIR ISLAND.

...AND IT WAS HIDDEN WITHIN THE FOG.

OH MY GOD.

THIS IS SOME KIND OF MILITARY FACILITY.

TURN US AROUND.

WE'RE RUNNING? WHY?

THERE WAS A WAR GOING ON HERE, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA IF IT'S OVER.

TURN US AROUND BEFORE WE GET CAUGHT IN any CROSSFIRE!

WHAT WAS THAT? DID WE HIT SOMETHING?!

KRANNG

WE'RE RAMMING DEBRIS! FOR ALL WE KNOW, THERE COULD BE MINES IN THE WATER!

DROP ALL THE FORWARD NETS TO MAKE A SWEEP. CLEAR A PATH AND GET US OUT OF HERE!

WHY DON'T WE TAKE THE CHOPPER?

AND ABANDON OUR CARGO?

WE'LL GET THIS CREW TO TALK, FIND OUT WHO THEY'RE SELLING TO, AND WE'LL POCKET THAT PAYCHECK OURSELVES.

OVER HERE! WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING!

UP THERE—CAUGHT UP IN THE DEBRIS WE'VE CLEARED AWAY! SOMEONE'S STUCK IN THE NET!

DO YOU THINK I'M INTERESTED IN SURVIVORS?! GET RID OF IT!

STABB

WE CAN'T MOVE IT! THE NET'S COMING APART!

HEADS UP! IT'S ALL COMING DOWN!

AAGGH! DAMMIT!

SLAK

OH GOD, NO... NO! NOT HER!

ANYONE BUT HER!

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH ALL THESE KNIVES?!

YOU CHOOSE NOW TO BE TERRIFIED?! OF HER?!

WHO IS SHE?!

YAAARG!

NNNNGH!

WHAT THE HELL...?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?!

CYANIDE.

THEY WERE HIDING *SUICIDE CAPSULES* IN THEIR TEETH.

THEY'RE *KILLING THEMSELVES?!*

WHY ARE THEY SO AFRAID OF HER?!

SHE'S NOT EVEN BREATHING!

LUCKY FOR US, APPARENTLY.

WE HAVE TO REVIVE HER.

WHY SHOULD WE REVIVE HER? THE CREW JUST *WARNED US* HOW DANGEROUS SHE IS!

AND NOW THAT THEY'RE ALL DEAD, THIS *MYSTERY WOMAN* MAY BE OUR *ONLY LEAD* TO GETTING *PAID*!

SHE'S GOT NO PULSE, APRIL. AND WE'VE GOT NO IDEA HOW LONG SHE'S BEEN THAT WAY.

WE PULLED HER OUT OF THE WATER. *THE FREEZING WATER.*

AND THAT MAY HAVE PROTECTED HER *ORGANS*, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN SHE WON'T HAVE *BRAIN DAMAGE.*

WE NEED HER TO *TALK*—WE NEED TO KNOW WHO'S BUYING THE SHIP'S CARGO. NOW HELP ME GET RID OF HER *BODY ARMOR.*

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M DOING THIS...

BECAUSE YOU WANNA GET *PAID*, RIGHT?!

SNAK

NOT IF SHE'S GONNA WAKE UP AND KILL US!

YOU SURE YOU WANNA TRY THIS? FEELS LIKE A BIG MISTAKE.

YEAH? WELL, IT WON'T BE MY FIRST...

KLANGG

SHUNKK

THE ADRENALINE SHOT—IT DIDN'T WORK.

SHE'S STILL DEAD.

YOU MUST HAVE MISSED HER HEART.

PROBABLY GOOD THAT SHE STAYS DEAD.

SOMEONE CHECK FOR A PULSE.

THAK

OH MY GOD.

SHE'S ALIVE!

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...BETRAYED ...HOW?!

YOU HAVE FAILED US.

YOU HAVE BETRAYED US!

...WHAT DID I-

-AGGCH!

GLORF

THAT... MONSTER...

...IT WAS TRYING TO KILL ME!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY!

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE... WHY CAN'T I HEAR YOU?!

PLEASE... JUST TELL ME WHO YOU ARE!

HELP ME! PLEASE!

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

WHERE AM I?!

WHO AM I?!

KR KR KR

NOW.

WILL SHE JUMP?

I OFTEN WONDER...

SHE GOES TO THE LOOKOUT EVERY NIGHT, SINCE BEFORE SHE LEARNED TO WALK AGAIN. SHE LOOKS TO THE HEAVENS FOR ANSWERS.

"HOW IS SHE HEALING?"

"PHYSICALLY, SHE HAS FULLY RECOVERED.

"SHE IS IN *PEAK CONDITION.*"

AND HER *MIND?*

HER MEMORIES, HER IDENTITY... ALL OF IT IS LOST.

ANY VISIONS FROM HER PAST ARE HAUNTING... *CRYPTIC*. SHE CAN REMEMBER NOTHING FROM BEFORE THE DAY YOU FOUND HER.

HAVE YOU RETURNED TO HELP HER?

I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE THESE LAST FEW YEARS, RISKING MY OWN NECK TO FIND OUT WHO SHE IS.

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED HER *NAME*? HER *HISTORY*?

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

EVERYTHING.

IS SHE *DANGEROUS*?

SHE WILL BE.

CHAPTER 2

pencils by John Royle • inks by Eeshwar • colors by Romulo Fajardo

KINGDOM OF BHUTAN.
SOUTH ASIA.

YOU CAUGHT ANOTHER TWO? BOTH AT THE SAME TIME?!

I GOT LUCKY.

LUCKY? YOU JUST BROKE MY SPEAR FISHING RECORD!

WITHOUT EVEN USING A SPEAR!

...AND YOU'RE NOT JUST THE *FASTEST*, BUT ALSO THE *STRONGEST* PERSON I'VE EVER MET! HOW DID YOU EVER BECOME SO *POWERFUL*?

"POWERFUL"? WELL, IF MY TALENTS WERE *EARNED*, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW *HOW*.

I'M SORRY. I KNOW I SHOULDN'T ASK WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

IT'S OKAY TO ASK, LITTLE ONE, BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER.

BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT WHO I AM TODAY—AND WHAT I CAN *DO* TODAY—ALL OF IT HAS COME FROM MY TIME WITH YOU, AND FROM THE GREAT CARE THAT'S BEEN GIVEN TO ME BY *THE SISTERHOOD*.

THAT'S *NOT ENTIRELY TRUE*.

I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF MY PAST.

SHNNNG

...

WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS *APRIL MAYDAY.*

I'M A FRIEND.

SHE'S THE WOMAN WHO FOUND ME—WHO SAVED MY LIFE AND BROUGHT ME HERE TO THE SISTERHOOD.

BUT THAT WAS *YEARS AGO.* WHAT DOES SHE WANT *NOW?*

I'VE COME TO REMINISCE.

IT'S BEST YOU RUN ALONG, LITTLE ONE—BACK TO THE SISTERS WHILE I SPEAK WITH OUR VISITOR.

SHOULD I PREPARE AN EXTRA MEAL FOR HER?

'THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

SHE WON'T BE HERE FOR LONG.

I'VE RECOVERED FROM MY INJURIES, MS. MAYDAY. AND FOR YOUR HELP, I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.

YOUR *BODY* HAS HEALED, BUT THE *MEMORY LOSS*—NOT KNOWING YOUR OWN IDENTITY, YOUR *OWN NAME*—IT STILL CAUSES YOU A GREAT DEAL OF PAIN.

YOUR *STRENGTH*... YOUR SPEED THAT THE YOUNG GIRL ADMIRES? NOT TO MENTION YOUR SKILLS WITH THAT *KNIFE*?

SOME OF IT COMES TO YOU NATURALLY, YES. *BUT NOT ALL OF IT.*

THEN WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

YOU WERE A HIGHLY TRAINED *ASSASSIN*, WORKING FOR A *COVERT INTELLIGENCE AGENCY*—ONE COMPRISED OF THE BEST FEMALE OPERATIVES IN THE WORLD.

YOUR SKILLS WERE HONED AND *PERFECTED* WHILE A MEMBER OF THAT SPECIALIZED TEAM.

AND AS THE *MOST EXPERIENCED* OF THESE WOMEN, YOU WERE LOOKED UPON AS THE NATURAL LEADER OF THE GROUP. YOU WERE THE VETERAN AGENT THAT THEY COULD ALL *RELY ON*.

OR SO THEY THOUGHT.

IN REALITY, YOU WERE A ***DOUBLE AGENT***—THE KEY OPERATIVE FOR AN EVIL MILITARY ORGANIZATION CALLED ***THE HAMMER.***

BEFORE LONG, YOU WERE ***ENGAGED IN BATTLE***—FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE AGAINST THE SAME WOMEN WHO HAD ONCE BEEN YOUR MOST TRUSTED ALLIES.

THE HAMMER WAS DEFEATED. AND YOU... ***YOU*** WERE ***LEFT FOR DEAD.***

KILLED IN ACTION.

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE—THAT I WAS A *TRAITOR*—WELL, THEN...

...YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER REVIVED ME. *I DESERVED TO DIE.*

WHAT YOU DESERVE IS A *SECOND CHANCE.*

I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE HAMMER *MANIPULATED YOU*—THAT YOU WERE *FORCED* INTO JOINING THEIR CAUSE.

WHAT I'M OFFERING *NOW* IS A SHOT AT *REDEMPTION.*

REDEMPTION... *HOW?*

COME WITH ME TO MOSCOW.

FOR WHAT REASON?

MY ASSOCIATES AND I ARE CHASING A *THREAT.* WE BELIEVE AN ATTACK IS BEING PLANNED ON YOUR HOMELAND—*MOTHER RUSSIA.*

AND WITH YOUR HELP, I BELIEVE WE CAN *STOP THAT THREAT.*

WHAT KIND OF THREAT?

FLIGHT 3-A! RESPOND! WHAT HAPPENED?!

WE'VE LOST ENGINE ONE! ENGINE TWO IS FAILING!

WE'RE GOING DOWN!

ARE YOU UNDER ATTACK?

ENGINE ONE HAS EXPLODED! REASON IS UNCONFIRMED!

TARGET IS DOWN. MOVE IN TO SECURE THE CARGO.

FLIGHT 3-A! RESPOND! WHAT IS YOUR STATUS?

WE'VE CRASH LANDED. MY CO-PILOT... I THINK SHE'S DEAD.

THE REST OF YOUR CREW?

KRANOV IS ALIVE. EVERYONE ELSE... DEAD.

WHAT ABOUT THE CARGO?

SEVERAL OF THE CRATES HAVE SPLIT OPEN.

THE CANISTERS... ONE APPEARS TO HAVE RUPTURED.

RUPTURED? ARE YOU CERTAIN?!

YES. I CAN SEE GAS LEAKING OUT.

IS IT DANGEROUS?

YOUR CARGO IS A HIGHLY CLASSIFIED WEAPON.

DESTROY THE PLANE. INCINERATE EVERYTHING.

UNDERSTOOD.

DON'T WORRY, KRANOV—I'LL GET YOU TO SAFETY BEFORE THE EXPLOSION. JUST HANG IN THERE.

ESSS... WWHO...?

ARE YOU THE *RESCUE TEAM?* THIS MAN NEEDS A MEDIC! HE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

BLAM

HE'S BEEN SAVED.

SAVED FROM *WHAT*, YOU MANIAC?

WHY WOULD YOU–

DEAR GOD... NO!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

SKSSSSS

GYAHHHH!

WE'VE INTERCEPTED THE PLANE'S FINAL DISTRESS CALL... AND IT'S POSSIBLE YOU MAY ENCOUNTER AN ACTUAL ***RESCUE TEAM*** WHILE MAKING YOUR ESCAPE.

WE HAVE CONFIRMATION ON THE WEAPON. ONE OF THE CANISTERS WAS COMPROMISED.

EXCELLENT...

THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM. THE ***WEAPON*** IS OURS.

"NO ONE CAN STOP US NOW."

SHAKK

SHE MAY HAVE BEEN GOOD BACK IN THE DAY, APRIL, BUT LOOK AT HER *NOW*.

SHE WON'T EVEN MAKE IT THROUGH THE FIRST EXERCISE.

SHE CAN FIGHT. *IT'LL COME BACK TO HER.* AND WHEN IT DOES, YOU'LL BE *BEGGING HER TO JOIN OUR CREW.*

PFFT! ONE PUNCH AND SHE'S DOWN. LOOKS LIKE THIS "LEGEND" YOU FOUND IS *HISTORY.*

RRAK

WHOEVER THEY THOUGHT I WAS... WHATEVER KIND OF *WARRIOR* THEY WERE HOPING TO RESURRECT... *I'M NOT HER ANYMORE.*

AND NOW, YOU WISH TO STAY HERE WITH US—TO SURRENDER YOUR PAST AND REMAIN *NAMELESS* AMONG THE SISTERS.

YES.

YOU COULD NOT *WALK* WHEN YOU CAME TO US.

AND NOW, YOU *RUN.*

AND YOU MUST CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD— FOR THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TOWARDS A *HEALING OF YOUR MIND.* IT WILL PROVE A FAR MORE DIFFICULT CHALLENGE, BUT ONE THAT WILL EASE A MUCH GREATER PAIN.

WE CAN DO THE MOSCOW JOB WITHOUT HER. SHE'S WASTING OUR TIME.

WE *NEED HER,* KAT. JUST GIVE HER ANOTHER CHANCE.

SHE HAD HER CHANCE. SHE COMES AT ME AGAIN, SHE'S GOING DOWN *FOR GOOD.*

SEARCH FOR WHAT CAUSES YOUR PAIN. TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU SEE.

I SEE NOTHING. BUT I FEEL... *RESENTMENT.* AND I DON'T KNOW WHY...

YOU MUST ENVISION WHAT TROUBLES YOU MOST. CALL IT TO YOUR MIND AND CONFRONT IT.

I...

...I CAN SEE IT.

YOU CAN SEE WHAT? ANOTHER BEATING IN YOUR FUTURE?

YOU.

YOU DID THIS TO ME.

YOU READY TO GO ANOTHER ROUND?

YOU DID THIS TO ME!

CHAK

KRAK

...

YOU KNOCKED HER ASS OUT. NO ONE'S EVER DONE THAT BEFORE.

IT WASN'T EVEN HER I WAS FIGHTING. I SAW HER AS *SOMEONE ELSE.*

WHO? SOMEONE FROM YOUR PAST?

YES, BUT I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN HER FACE.

THIS IS *POINTLESS.*

THIS IS *PROGRESS.* AT LEAST YOU REMEMBERED *SOMETHING* ABOUT YOUR PAST. AND NOW, WE WORK ON MAKING THOSE MEMORIES *STICK.*

AND HOW DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO THAT?

WITH *THIS.*

THE IDEA IS IF YOU *LOOK LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN*, YOU MIGHT START TO *FEEL LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN.*

AND WHERE DID ALL THIS COME FROM?

"I TOOK THE ***BATTLE ARMOR*** I FOUND YOU IN AND HIRED A SPECIAL TEAM OF CRAFTSMEN. THEY TOOK MEASUREMENTS FROM THAT ARMOR, THEN WENT ON TO REFERENCE A FEW SURVEILLANCE PHOTOS OF YOUR ***FIELD OUTFIT.***

"THEY WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO RECREATE EVERY LAST BUCKLE AND STITCH.

"THE SAME WENT FOR YOUR ***WEAPONRY.*** THE MATERIALS, THE WEIGHT AND BALANCE OF THE BLADES... EVERYTHING WAS RECREATED TO YOUR EXACT STANDARDS."

AND I REALIZE THAT ALL THIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL MIGHT MAKE ME SEEM LIKE A BORDERLINE-OBSESSIVE FAN—

"BORDERLINE" OBSESSIVE?

—BUT I WAS DOING IT ALL FOR GOOD REASON—TO HELP YOU ***REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.***

WHO AM I?

YOUR NAME IS NATALIA KASSLE.

AND YOU'RE THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN WHO EVER LIVED.

TWICE.

CHAPTER 3

ROYLE
JAVISH
+ ROMY

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MOSCOW.

MOTHER RUSSIA.

TOO BAD SHE CAN'T PROVIDE A WARMER WELCOME.

I CAN HANDLE THE COLD.

WHO IS THE TARGET?

WE'RE STILL SETTING UP OUR SURVEILLANCE OPERATION, NATALIA. STAND BY FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

SHE ISN'T READY FOR THIS, APRIL. ONE MISTAKE AND SHE'S *DEAD*.

NATALIA IS OUR BEST SHOT AT THIS. SHE'S OUR *ONLY* SHOT.

ONLY BECAUSE YOU NEVER CONSIDERED *ME* FOR THE JOB.

MAYBE BECAUSE YOU NEVER LEARNED TO SPEAK *RUSSIAN*.

DON'T NEED TO. I LET *THESE* DO THE TALKING.

NATALIA'S READY. SHE CAN DO THIS, HENRY.

MOSCOW IS WHERE IT ALL STARTED FOR HER.

FIRST AS A *RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER*...

...THEN ON TO BECOME A *SPECIAL AGENT IN THE FSB*.

"FSB"?

FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. SHE WAS RUSSIA'S JAMES BOND.

AND ALL THAT WAS *BEFORE* HER EXPERIENCE AS A *DANGER GIRL*.

BEFORE EVERYTHING SHE LEARNED WHILE WORKING AS A *DOUBLE AGENT* WITH *THE HAMMER*.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO PUT ME AT EASE? THE PART WHERE SHE JOINED *THE HAMMER*?

NATALIA HAS *CHANGED*. SHE'S WORKING WITH *US* NOW.

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW SHE WON'T *TURN ON US*? SAME WAY SHE DID TO THE *DANGER GIRLS*?

SHE DIDN'T JUST *BETRAY THEM*—SHE TRIED TO *KILL THEM*.

SO JUST SAY THE WORD...

...AND I'LL MAKE SURE WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM.

YOU'RE THERE TO *PROTECT* NATALIA. SHE WON'T TURN ON US, KAT.

WHY? BECAUSE YOU SAVED HER LIFE?

BECAUSE WE'RE ALL SHE KNOWS RIGHT NOW.

SHE'S FIGHTING FOR A NEW IDENTITY—A CHANCE TO PROVE SHE'S NO LONGER PLAYING THE VILLAIN. THIS IS HER FIRST STEP ON A LONG ROAD TO REDEMPTION.

WELL, SHE WON'T GET FAR UNTIL WE FIND A WAY INTO THIS PLACE.

NATALIA— WE'VE GOT A HICCUP HERE WITH THE GUARD SITUATION. STAND BY UNTIL WE FIND AN ALTERNATE ENTRY POINT.

ALREADY FOUND.

HOW WILL I KNOW THE TARGET?

I'M SENDING A PHOTO, NATALIA.

HIS NAME IS *VIKTOR MARKOV.*

HE SERVED AS A COLONEL GENERAL IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. WENT AWOL IN 1991, SPENT THE MEANTIME MAKING MILLIONS AS A WEAPONS BROKER.

HE IS A CRIMINAL WHO DISHONORS THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

AND I HAVE FOUND HIM.

GOOD. NOW JUST PLANT OUR HACKING DEVICE INTO MARKOV'S PHONE AND WALK AWAY. ***DO NOT*** PROVOKE HIM. YOU CAN BET HE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF FIREPOWER BACKING HIM UP.

VIKTOR MARKOV.

<IT SEEMS YOU HAVE CRASHED THE WRONG PARTY, MY LOVE.>

<I AM MYKHAYLO KOZAK OF UKRAINE.>

(Translated from russian.)

<ILLEGAL WEAPONS? WHERE?>

<YOU ARE VIKTOR MARKOV, RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE THEFT OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS. YOU INTEND TO **SELL** THOSE WEAPONS TO ***ENEMIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.***>

<YOU CAN SEARCH ME IF YOU'D LIKE.>

<TWO DOZEN CANISTERS OF A WEAPONIZED GAS HAVE BEEN STOLEN. YOU KNOW WHERE THE CANISTERS ARE, MARKOV, AND I HAVE BEEN SENT HERE TO *EXTRACT THAT INFORMATION.*>

<AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?>

<I WAS INSTRUCTED TO USE THIS. IT'S A REMOTE LINK THAT WILL HIJACK ALL THE RELEVANT DATA FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.>

<BUT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION... I HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS.>

<YOU HAVE CHOSEN WISELY.>

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING? *IS SHE TURNING ON US?!*

I DON'T KNOW, HENRY. THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE TRANSLATION, OR—

SHE'S SCREWING US, APRIL! JUST LIKE SHE SCREWED THE DANGER GIRLS!

<SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, MY LOVE? A JOB?>

<I WANT SO MANY THINGS, MARKOV.>

<JUST TELL ME WHO SENT YOU, AND YOU WILL HAVE THEM ALL. WE WILL DRINK TO THAT PROMISE.>

<$30,000 A BOTTLE. IT IS THE PRIDE OF—>

<YOU WILL SURRENDER TO ME NOW.>

<YOU WILL **LEAD ME TO THE STOLEN WEAPONS.** AND ONCE THAT IS DONE, YOU WILL TURN YOURSELF IN TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES. **DO YOU UNDERSTAND?**>

ICE

<WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T?>

<THEN I REDECORATE THIS PLACE. IT COULD USE A SPLASH OF COLOR, DON'T YOU AGREE?>

<I'M THINKING **RED.**>

VRATATATATAT

KRAKKOW KRAKKOW

<SHE HAS LOST HER MIND! **KILL HER!**>

CHNNG

ZNNG

SHNNG

VRATATATAT

VRATATATAT

CHAKK

SHRAKK

MARKOU IS GETTING AWAY!

GETTING AWAY *HOW?*

THEY'RE IN A *BLACK HUMVEE*, CROSSING THE MAIN PLAZA... *HEADING EAST TOWARDS THE RIVER!*

I'M ON MY WAY DOWN.

ON HER WAY DOWN?

KAT—NATALIA IS HEADED YOUR WAY. HAVE YOU SPOTTED HER YET?

SHE'S ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

CHRISTMAS TREE? WHAT CHRISTMAS TREE?!

THE BIG ONE!

GET US OUT OF HERE! FASTER! GO!
CHAKK
KRSSSK

NATALIA! WE'RE COMING UP BEHIND YOU FAST!

HANG ON!

THAK

KRRR

THAKOM

KAPOW

KAPOW

<FASTER! I WANT HER *CRUSHED* WHEN SHE FALLS!>

<SHE'S BLOWN OUT THE RADIATOR! *STAY ON THE ROAD, YOU FOOL!*>

<I'M BLIIIND!>

SKRSSSS

KWOOOOM

557 TB

BLAM!

NATALIA!

DOES ANYONE SEE HER?!

NATALIA? YOU OKAY?

YOU SHOULD SEE THE OTHER GUY...

MARKOV? WHERE IS HE?!

HE'S OUR ONLY LEAD TO THE WEAPONS!

HE'S OVER HERE, APRIL...

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE OUR *LEAD* HAS GONE *COLD*.

THIS IS YOUR FAULT, NATALIA. YOU SHOULD HAVE STUCK TO THE PLAN!

HE WAS A TRAITOR TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. AND HE HAS PAID DEARLY FOR HIS CRIMES.

HE'S DEAD!

WE WANTED HIM ALIVE!

FAP

WHAT YOU WANTED WAS THIS.

YOU GOT—UNFF!—HIS PHONE?

IT'S ALL HERE—EVERYTHING WE NEED TO FIND THE WEAPONIZED GAS.

MARKOV HAS PEOPLE MOVING IT. HE'S SCHEDULED TO SELL IT.

WHERE?

AFRICA.

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

STILL NO WORD FROM MARKOV?

SCREW MARKOV. WE CAN DO THIS DEAL WITHOUT HIM.

WHAT I DON'T LIKE IS THE ***BLIND SPOT*** STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US—JUST PAST THAT CURVE IN THE ROAD. IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE FOR AN ***AMBUSH.***

WE NEED TO REACH THE RENDEZVOUS WITHOUT SOMEONE TAKING AN INTEREST IN OUR ***CARGO.***

THE ***WEAPONIZED GAS***... IS IT AS BAD AS THEY SAY?

I'VE SEEN IT MELT A GUY.

"MELT A GUY?"

IT'S ***WORSE*** THAN THEY SAY.

EVERYONE PARTNER UP. WE FAN OUT, PUT A SNIPER ON THE HILL, KEEP AN EYE ON THE ROAD FOR HOSTILES.

WHEN THE AREA'S SECURE, WE CROSS OVER TO THE RENDEZVOUS AND COLLECT OUR PAYCHECKS. AGREED? MOVE OUT.

SO...? WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HER?

ASIA? OUR PSYCHOTIC BOSS WHO I THINK IS A NINJA?

SHE'S HOT, RIGHT? I'M THINKING ABOUT ASKING HER OUT. AFTER WE DELIVER THAT POISON GAS AND COLLECT OUR LOOT.

ZWPP

DO YOU THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA...?

FRANK...?

FRANK IS SLEEPING. AND I SUGGEST YOU DON'T WAKE HIM—BY MAKING ANY TYPE OF NOISE OR CALLING OUT FOR HELP.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

ABBEY CHASE.

Danger Girl

CHAPTER 4

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Africa.

YOU SAID THIS MISSION WOULD BE *DANGEROUS*, ABBEY.

YOU ASKED ME TO ENLIST HELP FROM THE *NATIVES*.

BUT AT THE RATE YOU'RE DROPPING THESE *BAD GUYS*...

...YOU PROBABLY COULD'VE DONE THIS ON YOUR OWN.

THESE *MERCENARIES* AREN'T MY *OBJECTIVE*, DALLAS.

WHERE IS *KILBOURNE*?

THESE MEN WERE HELPING HER STEAL A CARGO OF *WEAPONIZED GAS*.

WHO?

ANASTASIA KILBOURNE—THE WOMAN WITH THE SWORDS.

THAT *WHISTLE*... WAS THAT FROM A *TRAIN*?

GOTTA BE THE TRAIN.

YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A *TRAIN*!

TWOOT

TWOOOT

YOU THINK SHE'S HIJACKING THE TRAIN? USING IT TO ESCAPE WITH THE GAS CANISTERS?

OF COURSE SHE IS! AND HAD YOU TOLD ME THERE WAS A TRAIN NEARBY, I WOULD'VE BEEN PREPARED TO DEAL WITH IT!

SO WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW?

AFTER KILBOURNE!

UNPREPARED?!

TWOP

KRAZG

OOOF!

SYDNEY. YOU THERE?

ALL EARS, ABBEY.

I'M IN PURSUIT OF KILBOURNE... *AND THE CANISTERS.* MARK MY CURRENT LOCATION... MAKE NOTE THAT I'M ON A TRAIN.

ROGER THAT, ABBEY. WE'RE SETTING A COURSE TO INTERCEPT. NUMBER OF HOSTILES ON BOARD?

I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

Mediterranean sea.

WE'RE COMING UP ON ALGERIA. 15 MINUTES TO TARGET.

KEEP IT STEADY, ROXANNE.

THIS *WEAPONIZED GAS* THAT WE'RE AFTER... WHERE DID IT COME FROM, APRIL?

SAME PLACE WE FOUND YOU, NATALIA—OFF THE COAST OF *HAMMER ISLAND.*

TURNS OUT THAT A SHIP WE HAD COMMANDEERED WAS NO ORDINARY SUPPLY VESSEL. IT WAS TRANSPORTING AN *EXPERIMENTAL WEAPON* TO THE *HAMMER ARMY.*

BUT THAT WEAPON NEVER GOT TO THE HAMMER BECAUSE THEIR ISLAND WAS *DESTROYED*, COURTESY OF YOUR OLD NEMESIS *ABBEY CHASE.*

AS WE TRIED TO NAVIGATE OUT OF THE ISLAND'S DEBRIS, ONE OF THE GAS CANISTERS **RUPTURED**. WE HAD TO **ABANDON SHIP**.

OUR THOUGHT WAS THAT THE SHIP WOULD JUST DRIFT INTO THE FIRE, DESTROYING THE GAS ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE HAMMER'S WEAPONS.

BUT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A **SURVIVOR** ON THAT SHIP—SOMEONE FROM THE ORIGINAL CREW WHO SOMEHOW STEERED THE SHIP TO SAFETY.

AND WHOEVER IS BUYING THE WEAPON NOW... YOU BELIEVE THEY INTEND TO USE IT AGAINST THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

I'M SORRY THEY'RE TARGETING YOUR HOME COUNTRY, NATALIA, BUT THAT IS WHAT OUR INTEL SAYS.

ONCE I HELP YOU **SECURE THE WEAPON**, OUR PLAN IS TO **DESTROY IT**.

YOU'VE GOT MY WORD ON THAT.

AND WE'VE GOT **YOUR WORD** THAT YOU'LL **STICK TO THE PLAN**. WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER FREE-FOR-ALL **KILL-FEST** LIKE **LAST TIME**. AGREED?

AGREED.

HERE WE GO!

GOOD. BECAUSE THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW, LADIES...

AREA SECURED. I'VE LOCATED THE GAS CANISTERS.

THAT WAS THE EASY PART, ABBEY.

NOW, IN ORDER TO *DESTROY THE GAS*, IT NEEDS TO BE *COMPLETELY INCINERATED.*

INCINERATED HOW?

EXPLOSIVES. WE NEED LOTS OF *EXPLOSIVES.*

ARMED

DETONATOR IS LINKED TO THE CHARGE...

AND WITH THAT MANY EXPLOSIVES, IT'S POSSIBLE YOU COULD BLOW THIS *ENTIRE TRAIN OFF THE TRACKS.*

KILBOURNE...

HOW LONG UNTIL YOUR FRIENDS ARRIVE, ABBEY? HOW MANY ARE COMING?

PRETTY MUCH—UNNNF—ALL OF THEM!

SO IF YOU'D LIKE TO... SURRENDER...

KRAAK

I WANT EVERYONE ON ALERT. WE MAY BE GETTING COMPANY.

NO ONE BOARDS THIS TRAIN AND LIVES.

KRAK KRAK

WARNING SHOTS?! SERIOUSLY?!

OUR *PLAN* WAS TO TAKE THEM BY *SURPRISE!*

NOW *EVERYONE* KNOWS WE'RE HERE! THEY'RE GONNA COME OUTSIDE AND *STORM THE DAMN ROOF!*

MAKING IT EASIER FOR *US* TO GO INSIDE AND *SEARCH FOR THE CANISTERS.*

AND WHO'S GONNA DEAL WITH *THEM*?!

SWISH

SWISH

THOSE CANISTERS ARE OURS FOR THE TAKING, AND NATALIA IS GONNA BE *FURIOUS* WHEN SHE FINDS OUT WE USED HER. IT'S PROBABLY NOT THE BEST IDEA TO DOUBLECROSS A KILLING MACHINE.

WE'LL MAKE OFF WITH THE CANISTERS WHILE SHE'S *DISTRACTED*.

DISTRACTED BY *WHAT*?

YOU *KNEW* SHE'D STAY OUTSIDE AND FIGHT. BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY DON'T FINISH HER OFF?

I'M NOT COUNTING ON IT.

SO THEN HOW IS THIS A GOOD PLAN?

...

BY *HER*.

NATALIA?!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

AND THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE HAS LEFT ME FEELING A BIT...

I WAS.

...DISTURBED.

DO I KNOW YOU?

DO YOU KNOW ME?!

WE WERE PARTNERS, NATALIA. WE TRAINED TOGETHER FOR **YEARS**. ALL THE WAY UNTIL YOU WERE CHOSEN BY THE HAMMER TO WORK AGAINST THE *DANGER GIRLS*.

DANGER GIRLS...?

ONE OF THEM IS HERE NOW. I CAUGHT HER TRYING TO DESTROY OUR CARGO.

A CARGO OF **WEAPONIZED GAS?**

THAT'S RIGHT. **BUT I STOPPED HER.** I RECOVERED THE **DETONATOR.**

ARMED

GIVE IT TO ME.

GIVE IT TO ME!

HYAA!

NO! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU... BUT I CAN HELP YOU.

WE'RE FIGHTING ON THE SAME SIDE!

...NO.

KRAK

WE'RE NOT!

FFF

NATALIA!

IT'S OVER, APRIL.

THE CANISTERS ARE RIGGED WITH EXPLOSIVES. AND I HOLD THE *DETONATOR.*

NOW HAND IT OVER.

WE KNOW, NATALIA...

YOU USED ME!

... YOU LIED TO ME.

NO!

I SAVED YOUR LIFE, NATALIA... AND I CAN TAKE IT RIGHT BACK.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU WIN HERE.

NO ONE WINS.

KLIK

ZZEEE

KABOOM

YOU WANTED TO FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE?! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

I KNOW WHO I AM! I'M THE PERSON WHO'S GOING TO KILL YOU!

YOU WANT TO KILL ME? WHAT ABOUT THE DANGER GIRL YOU'VE BEEN BLAMING FOR ALL YOUR PROBLEMS?!

ABBEY CHASE!

...ABBEY?!

SHE'S INSIDE THE TRAIN, NATALIA! SHE'S TRAPPED IN THAT BURNING BOXCAR!

YOU'RE LYING TO ME!

WHO DO YOU THINK RIGGED THE EXPLOSIVES? WHO WAS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO WANTED THIS MISSION TO FAIL BESIDES *YOU*?

KTNNG

TRANNG

THAT IS THE SOUND OF THIS *TRAIN* ABOUT TO *DROP!*

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME TO DEAL WITH *BOTH OF US*, NATALIA!

DO YOU WANT TO *SAVE ABBEY*? DO YOU WANT *REVENGE*?

IT'S WHAT YOU DO *NOW* THAT WILL *DEFINE WHO YOU ARE!*

SPNNG

KRAKK

...

SHE WENT AFTER HER.

BUT FOR WHAT REASON? DID SHE GO AFTER ABBEY FOR ***REVENGE***? OR DID SHE TRULY CHANGE AND DIE TRYING TO BECOME A ***HERO***?

WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWER, KAT. BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE—

"—NATALIA KASSLE IS NOT OUR PROBLEM ANYMORE."

WE'VE GOT A VISUAL ON THE TRAIN, VAL. *WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.*

ROGER THAT, SYDNEY. ANY SIGN OF ABBEY?

NOTHING YET. WE'RE MOVING INTO POSITION TO START THE GROUND SEARCH. STAND BY.

ABBEY?

ABBEY!

WHAT HAPPENED?

KILBOURNE KNOCKED ME OUT... AND THAT'S THE LAST THING I REMEMBER, SYDNEY.

BUT IF *YOU* WERE DOWN... THEN *HOW DID THE TRAIN BLOW UP?*

I DON'T' KNOW. BUT I'M GUESSING WE SHOULD THANK THE SAME PERSON WHO CUT ME LOOSE... SHE DRAGGED ME OUT OF THAT RIVER AND *SAVED MY LIFE.*

IT WAS A WOMAN WHO SAVED YOU?

WHO WAS SHE?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO SHE WAS, SONYA. I WAS IN A TOTAL *DAZE* WHEN IT HAPPENED.

ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT SHE'S A LOT TOUGHER THAN I AM.

HAMMER ISLAND.

CHAKK

SYSTEM ONLINE.
HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?

IDENTIFY AND LOCATE ALL CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES OF THE *HAMMER EMPIRE.*

INFORMATION CLASSIFIED.
VOICE IDENTIFICATION NEEDED.

KASSLE.

NATALIA KASSLE.

IDENTITY CONFIRMED.

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT.

Danger Girl WILL RETURN!

ART GALLERY

pencils by Jamie Tyndall

art by Jamie Tyndall • colors by Ula Mos

pencils by John Royle • inks by Jose Marzan, Jr. • colors by Romulo Fajardo

pencils by John Royle • inks by Eeshwar • colors by Romulo Fajardo

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EESHWAR
ROM

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Danger Girl™

MAYDAY

NATALIA KASSLE RETURNS!

She's the deadly (and dead!) double agent who fought to destroy the Danger Girls... and she's just been resurrected by the mysterious April Mayday!

But now, with no memory of her villainous past, will Natalia choose a path toward redemption? Or will a desire for revenge send her back into battle with the Danger Girls? Find out now in this action-packed adventure brought to you by writer Andy Hartnell and artist John Royle!

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